

so.'” “West Coast conchologists are in error,” etc., etc. One esteemed correspondent quite recently wrote me, “Some West Coast conchologists are a little mixed.” When we understand that most all West Coast conchologists have depended on the “Wise men of the East” for the names and all that pertains to the study of conchology, and that many of their mistakes are simply a reflection back to the East of the blunders that have been sent out to the West by Easterners, we can see just where the smile comes in. My own experience of thirty-five years “on these lines” has two sides to it, one very pleasant and the other very exasperating. I fear there have gone out of my shell den some expressions for which I cannot be held responsible, for in my way of thinking the provocation has been very great.

The fact is we all make blunders and mistakes, and West Coast conchologists do their share; but when we follow monographs published by Eastern conchologists that contain mistakes, and when we depend on Eastern conchologists for the names, and many of these names prove to be erroneous, it seems hardly fair to refer to West Coasters in such a way that those who do not know all the facts would think that West Coast conchologists were nothing but a lot of blunderers. “Wise men of the East,” please take a rest, and pick the beam out of your own eye!

NEW NORTH AMERICAN SPHÆRIA.

BY DR. V. STERKI.

During the last seven years I had chances to examine tens of thousands of Sphæria and Calyculinæ, alongside with the Pisidia, owing to the efforts and the kindness of many conchologists and partly to my own collecting. Yet I refrained from publishing anything on the subject before I should have acquired some knowledge about the range of variation of the several species, almost endless in some instances. There are some new forms, however, so very different from those published that they must be named and described.

Sphærium crassum, n. sp. Mussel large, strongly inflated, almost equipartite, somewhat rhomboidal in perpendicular outline; beaks a little anterior, large and full, slightly flattened on top, prominent over the hinge line; superior margin rather strongly, inferior mod-

erately curved; scutum and scutellum distinct with slight projecting, rounded angles at their terminations, the one at the scutum being less marked in full-grown specimens; anterior and posterior ends almost equally, obliquely truncated, especially in specimens not quite mature, while in the adult the posterior end forms more a regular curve from the beaks down to the rather low-situated rounded end; surface with rather sharp, fine and crowded sulcations, usually somewhat coarser on the beaks, dull or with a slight gloss; a few strongly marked lines of growth; color grayish or whitish-brown in the young, and the same in slightly marked marginal zones of older specimens plumbeous in half grown, and reddish or brownish, or smoky-brown, in the adult, with narrow, darker zones on the lines of growth; shell thick, muscle insertions distinct, nacre white, almost porcellaneous, with bluish zones corresponding with the lines of growth; hinge strong, plate rather broad, cardinal teeth comparatively large, the right strongly curved, emarginate at the free edge, its posterior part thick, slightly to deeply grooved; the inferior in the left valve short, curved, the superior shorter to longer than the inferior, moderately posterior, oblique, little curved; lateral teeth strong, those of the left valve with very high pointed cusps, ligament rather large, covered.

Size: long. 15, alt. 11.5, diam. 9.5 mill.

Long. 14, alt. 11.5, diam. 9 mill.

Habitat: Carp Lake, near Mackinaw City, Michigan, collected by Mr. Bryant Walker.

This is a remarkable *Sphaerium*. It stands near some large forms of *stamineum*, yet by its shape, large diameter and very large beaks, is different; *S. solidulum* is more rounded in its outlines, less inflated, its beaks are smaller, and the sulcation is coarser. In its surface appearance, sulcation and color, our species resembles *S. simile*, but is much shorter, comparatively, its beaks are higher, the hinge margin is more curved and the hinge very much stronger.

Sphaerium walkeri n. sp. Mussel small, well inflated, almost equi-partite; beaks little anterior, rather broad, rounded, not high, somewhat projecting over the hinge margin; the latter rather short, little curved; scutum and scutellum scarcely marked, with slight, projecting rounded angles; inferior margin slightly curved; anterior end well rounded, passing into the inferior without any indication of an angle; posterior slightly truncated obliquely, passing into the inferior with a low situated, rounded angle; surface with very fine, some-

what irregular striation, also on top of the beaks, shining; color yellowish to brownish horn; shell thin; translucent; muscle insertions slightly marked; hinge rather short, slightly curved, fine, plate narrow; the right cardinal tooth little curved or almost straight, thin; the left inferior, short, slightly curved, the superior longer, rather posterior and curved down at the posterior end; lateral teeth fine, the outer ones in the right valve quite small, those in the left valve with short sharp cusps; ligament small.

Size: long. 5.3, alt. 4.5, diam. 3.4 mill. (largest specimen, long. 4.6, alt. 4, diam. 3.2 mill. and probably full grown.)

Habitat: Lake Michigan, off New York Point, in deep water, dredged by Mr. Bryant Walker, at 24 meters.

The present *Sphærium* ranges under the group *Corneola*, with *Sph. rhomboideum* Say and *occidentale* Pr., but is quite distinct from both, not only by its small size; from the former it is distinguished by its well-rounded anterior part, from the latter, by its broader, less prominent beaks and the oblique posterior end. It has some resemblance, in shape, with some forms of *Sph. corneum* Lin. of Europe, but is very much smaller, its beaks are somewhat different and so is the surface appearance.

The specimens were first seen in November, 1894, and then regarded as representing a new species, and named in honor of Mr. Bryant Walker, the indefatigable scientist and collector to whom we owe so much conchological knowledge.

A NEW PINNA FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY WM. H. DALL.

No species of the *Pinnidæ* has hitherto been known from California, or reported from any point more northerly than the Gulf of California on the Pacific coast. It was therefore a surprise when I received from Mr. and Mrs. Oldroyd a specimen taken alive by fishermen in 25 fathoms, San Pedro Bay. This is rather an exceptional depth for a species of its solid and heavy character, the deep water *Pinnidæ* usually belonging to the small, delicate and spinose forms, and the coarse imbricate species being more commonly found gregariously, at no great distance below low water mark, where their sharp edges have often been referred to as injurious to small boats landing in the shallow water. The present form belongs to the genus